

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-27 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-6, 8-13, and 25-27.

Claims 14-18 and 20-24 stand rejected because, according to the Office Action, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. During a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney on August 1, 2005, claims 14-18 and 20-24 have been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable as provided by the amended claims herein. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections based on the following discussion.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection

Claims 14-18 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because, according to the Office Action, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Accordingly, claims 14-16, 18, 21, and 23-24 have been amended as indicated above to place them in condition for immediate allowance. Moreover, the Applicants note that all claims are properly supported in the specification and accompanying drawings and no new matter is being added. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

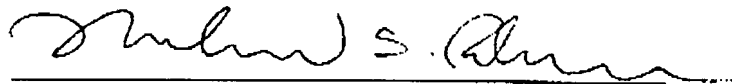
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-27, all the claims presently pending in the application, are in condition for allowance. The

Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 1, 2005



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